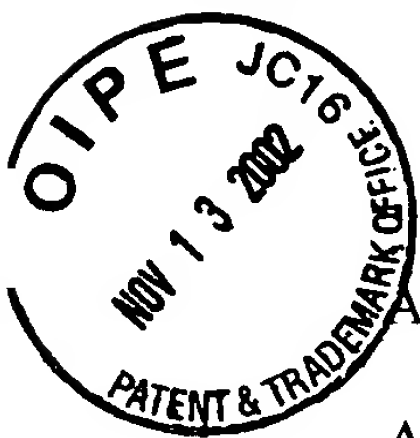


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jue, R.A., et al.

) Group Art Unit 1647

Appl. No. : 09/575,199

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Filed : May 18, 2000

For : VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL
GROWTH FACTOR DIMERS

) November 1, 2002

) (Date)

Examiner : SPECTOR, L.

) James J. Mullen III, Ph.D., Reg. No. 44,957

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 3, 2002, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and comments in connection with the above-captioned application. A one-month extension of time is requested for this amendment and response.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On pages 1 and 48, please amend the title to read as follows: "VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR DIMER VARIANTS"

Please amend the paragraph 18, line 33 to page 19, line 11 as follows:

C/ In *E. coli*, the VEGF₁₂₁ monomers typically accumulate in the form of inclusion bodies, and need to be solubilized, refolded, dimerized and purified. Methods for the recovery and refolding of VEGF isoforms from *E. coli* are known in the art. For example, refolding of certain VEGF isoforms following recombinant expression in *E. coli* is described in Christinger *et al.*, *Prot. Struc. Func. Genet. supra* (1996); Keyt *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:7788-7795 (1996); Cao *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:3154-3162 (1996); Siemeister *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 222:249-255 (1996); and PCT Publication WO 96/06641. In a particularly preferred